DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS VARIOUS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Honor waits, o'er all the earth, The art that calls her harvests forth.—BRYANT.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1849. NO. 4.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

QUALITIES OF INDIAN CORN.

Chemists have furnished analyses of Indian corn; but these, in the usual way in which we have them, are very indefinite, and far from giving the information which the farmer desires in order to enable him to determine on the value and proper purposes of corn for feeding, and to ascertain what elements it takes from the soil, that he may supply them in manures.

Different varieties of corn differ widely. Some contain a large portion of oil, others are composed mostly of starch. The Tuscarora, the Calico, and Knight's Tall Flour corn, contain a very large portion of starch and very little oil. On the contrary, the various kinds of pop corn, and those heavy varieties usually cultivated in New England, contain a large portion of oil, and are valuable for their fattening properties.

Corn composed mostly of starch, makes a light, pleasant, wholesome food, and it is excellent to mix with wheat flour, which is rather tenacious and rich in nutrition. The Calico corn is considered the best for this purpose, and, excepting the hull, it is remarkably white, and does away with the objection of mixing corn flour with that of wheat, on account of its darker color. The inner part of Calico corn is as white as wheat.

We hope that in future, chemists will be more definite, and when they give us the results of their experiments and investigations, that they will give those circumstances that are so essential to their utility. They should name the variety of which they give an analysis, and state its predominant qualities as to oil or starch.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING

AT THE STATE HOUSE.

Agreeably to adjournment at the close of the last session of the Legislature, the first meeting was held January 16, and the following officers were chosen: Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, (of the Council,) President; Lieutenant-Governor Reed, and Hon. J. C. Leonard, of Norton, Vice-Presidents; William Buckminster, of the Ploughman, S. W. Cole, of the New England Farmer, and L. Bartlett, of the Cultivator, Secretaries; Hons. William B. Calhoun, (Secretary of State,) Brooks, of Princeton, Wilder, of Leominster, Walker, of Brookfield, and J. S. Sleeper, Editor of the Boston Journal, a committee to propose subjects for discussion, engage gentlemen to open the discussion, and to deliver essays on agriculture.

Voted, That the speaker who opens the discussion be limited to half an hour, and those that follow to fifteen minutes.

Remarks were made by several gentlemen on the mode of conducting the meetings, particularly on having subjects more limited than usual, on reporting, &c.

We have generally had broad subjects for discussion at these meetings, and we have scattered our labors over various parts of a wide field, without effecting much in any one branch. Our choice has been to have definite subjects, and discuss them thoroughly. For instance, take apples for one evening, or more if necessary, and not take the broad subject of "Fruits and Fruit Trees," and discuss it six evenings, as has been the case. As an instance of the impropriety of extensive subjects, after the organization, at the first meeting, the subject of Farm Stock was taken up for discussion, and nothing of consequence was said, excepting on swine, and not half of the different breeds of this class of animals was named; and scarcely any thing was said on management, feeding, &c. We name these things, hoping that those who read these remarks will use their influence in making an improvement in having more definite subjects, that they may not be so broad that we must have the same subjects year after year.

These meetings are interesting and highly instructive, and we are pleased to see exhibited an unusual interest in them the present season. There seems to be a determination to make them more useful and efficient, and give them an importance that shall command not only the respect and attention of agriculturists, but of gentlemen of science and general intelligence.

We shall give reports of the meetings, containing the substance of the most important facts elicited by these useful discussions. They will be arranged under the head of the subjects, instead of the general sameness of meetings, only varied in number and

date, which will be an improvement in a permanent work like this. As our paper is stereotyped, we cannot publish the doings of these meetings immediately, but nothing will be lost by deliberation, instead of a hasty report, as it gives an opportunity to correct errors that are liable to occur, or ascertain more distinctly the views of a speaker.

SWINE.

At the first agricultural meeting, the subject for discussion was "*Swine.*"

Mr. Buckminster said, that the Berkshire hogs had been extolled highly, but farmers have been deceived in them. They do not open well, though of good appearance externally. The meat is stringy and tough; and for barrelling, it does not sell well in the market. The Bedfords and Markays are more valuable. He thought the Suffolk breed was very good. One objection, they are not good breeders.

Mr. Wilder, the president, said, that he had kept the Suffolk hogs two years, and had raised no pigs. They were probably too fat for breeding. They sell at an extra price in the market. The size is small. Mr. Stickney, who imported this breed, increases the size by crossing them with the Middlesex.

Mr. J. Breck, of Brighton, said, that he had tried the Berkshires; they did not cut up well. He thought they might be improved by a cross with the China breed.

Mr. Brooks, of Princeton, said, that the Berkshires are excellent for ham, for roasters, and lard, and he would raise them for these purposes. They produced more lean meat than others. The fat fries away more than usual. He said that no breed of hogs would answer all purposes.

Mr. Bartlett said, that fat hogs would not breed well. Poor people, who do not keep their hogs in high condition, generally raise the most pigs. He had a sow which he kept mostly on raw ruta bagas, and she produced a baker's dozen of pigs.

Mr. Cole remarked, that the Berkshires had been extolled too highly, and now they were undervalued. They had been very useful in New York, and in the western country, in crossing with other breeds, which had made great improvement. There is a great demand for fat meat, and hogs are deprived of pure air, and exercise, and high fed, till they are diseased with fat, and sometimes they cannot get up, and cannot see, and would soon die, if not butchered. Lean meat is best for nutriment, and to supply the wear of muscle in a person that labors; but if the object of eating is to grow fat, then fat meat should be preferred.

THE WHITE CARROT.

A few years ago the white carrot excited great attention in this country and in Europe, and it has been tried extensively, and farmers generally say that it is found wanting in nutriment, color, or some other quality, and the cultivation of it is nearly abondoned in this section.

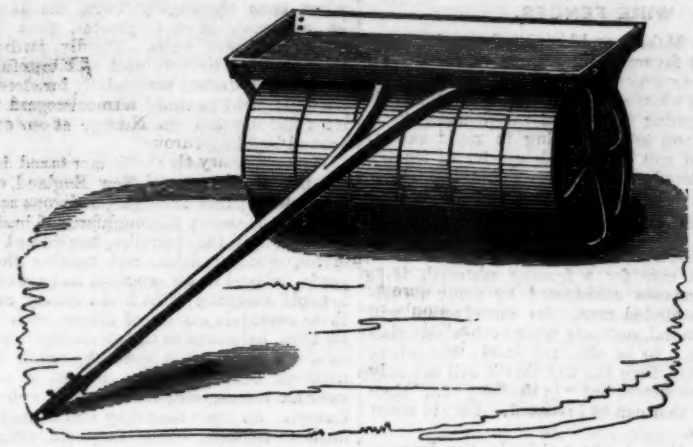
We think it is the same with this carrot as it has been with the Chinese Tree corn, Rohan potatoes, and Berkshire pigs, first extolled too highly; and, as they did not come up to the high imaginary standard, they have been undervalued. The white carrot is estimated higher in other sections than in this, and we hope that it will continue in favor, at least long enough for it to have a fair trial. We copy the following from the Germantown (Pa.) Telegraph:—

I have recently examined some superb specimens of this variety of the carrot family, and cannot resist the conviction that, with proper management and a congenial soil, they will be found far more profitable and productive than either the orange or red. The individual by whom they were exhibited is noted for his intelligence and enterprise, and has several times received premiums and other honorable distinctions from Agricultural Societies, for the best crops, animals, &c., and is, withal, a citizen of whom the agricultural community may well be proud. Our friend speaks in terms of high approbation of the white carrot as a "field crop," being, he thinks, far more hardy and prolific than any other variety of the carrot he has ever cultivated. As the roots in question were grown on the same soil with others of the red and orange varieties, and cultivated precisely in the same manner, without the smallest modification as to manuring or after culture, he was able to ascertain, with the nicest accuracy, the comparative value of the several kinds. The result of his observations were, that, on the same soil, and with the same advantages, the white carrot is of far greater value to the root grower, if his object be stock feeding, than any root he can cultivate with the same advantages of climate and manure.

In the cultivation of carrots, — unquestionably one of the best roots the farmer can raise, — it is necessary to have the soil of a good texture, and properly prepared. Old lands, that have been well worked, and reduced to a fine tilth, are much preferable to new; and if not exhausted, or so far emasculated constitutionally, as not to admit of ready and thorough resuscitation by the application of strong and energetic manures, they will rarely fail of producing a good crop. When intended for stock, carrots may, like turnips, be sowed late. The ground should be rolled after sowing, and great care exercised to keep down the weeds, especially while the plants are young. We frequently hear complaints that carrot seed does not readily germinate, and that the crop is principally unprofitable on this account — transplanting or resowing being impracticable. If farmers would soak their seed twenty-four hours before sowing, in urine, and then roll it in gypsum, and *after sowing*, carefully compress the soil by the application of the roller, or some other suitable instrument, there would rarely be any failure; the difficulty being in the management oftener than in the seed.

LAST OF RAILS.

Rails split in the spring when the bark will leave them, last much better than those split in winter, as the bark remaining on the wood causes it to retain moisture, which soon rots the rail. When there is bark on the rails, to turn down so that, as it becomes loose, it can fall off, will promote their last. Small rails last much longer than large ones. All fences should be torn down and re-set within three years after they are first built. The rails are not then so rotten as to break in throwing about, while the bark has generally become sufficiently loose to jar off. For durability, Spanish oak is much better than either red or post oak. — *Southern Cultivator.*



THE FIELD ROLLER.

The field roller is among the important implements of the farm, contributing largely to improvements and successful cultivation. The following are among the advantages of this valuable implement.

It levels and smooths the land on sowing down to grass, pressing sods and small stones into the soft soil, pulverizing the lumps of earth, and preparing a fine even surface for the scythe, and a better condition of the soil for the crops.

It presses the light, loose earth around the seeds of grass, grain, &c., causing a more ready and sure vegetation, for many hard, slowly-vegetating seeds will not start easily, and some not at all, unless the earth is pressed closely upon them. A farmer observed that an old horse gave him a useful lesson. He was in a field in which a piece of carrots had just been sowed on light land, and the horse rolled on the carrot bed, and where he rolled the seeds came well, but mostly failed on other parts.

By making the earth compact at the surface, insects are deprived of shelter; otherwise the sods, loose stones, and lumps of earth, afford them convenient habitations.

In spring there is frequently great advantage in rolling lands recently sowed to grain and grass, as the earth that has been hove with the frost, exposing the roots of plants, is replaced by the operation of this implement.

The roller is particularly beneficial on light lands, where the soil is too loose and porous to retain moisture, and protect the manure from the effects of drying winds and a scorching sun, and where it is too light to allow the roots of plants a firm hold in the earth; and on lands usually wet, it is very useful, in a dry time, in smoothing the surface, after sowing to grain or grass. On most soils, small stones are beneficial, and thus are but little trouble in tillage.

Some farmers apprehend that rolling lands will make them heavy, but this is not the case; it only renders them compact at the surface, while they continue as loose and permeable to the roots of plants as before this operation.

Rollers are constructed of wood, stone, and iron. Those of wood and of iron are mostly used. The former cost the least in the beginning; but those made of cast iron are economical in a long run, as they will last for ages. They are composed of several sections, or drums, as represented in the engraving. They allow of turning conveniently, and without scraping or displacing the soil.

Cast iron rollers are made of different sizes, by varying the number of sections, and by the use of sections of different diameters. Some are twenty-two, others thirty inches in diameter. They move on wrought iron arbors, two inches in diameter. Rollers thus constructed are remarkably strong and durable. A box is attached, to receive stones and other impediments to be removed from the land, or to add to the weight, when necessary. The price varies from thirty to fifty dollars. These rollers are for sale at the Agricultural Warehouse of Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason, & Co., Quincy Hall, over the Market.

CARE OF COWS, SHEEP, &c.

All animals with young should be kept in tolerably good condition, as poor keeping for creatures in such condition is injurious, both to the parent and offspring. But farmers should be very careful and guard against the opposite extreme; for very high keeping, which makes the animal very fat, is more injurious than poor keeping, endangering the life and health both of the dam and her young.

Gentle exercise, at least, is necessary for animals in a prolific state, but from inconvenience this is often neglected in winter. With proper care animals may receive a little moderate exercise, even in winter, to prevent the jaundice, dyspepsia, and various disorders that arise from inaction. Animals should at all times be supplied with a plenty of pure water.

For the New England Farmer.

WIRE FENCES.

Mr. Editor: Making and keeping fences in repair under the most favorable circumstances, furnishes a sad item in the expenses of the farm, and this especially in regions where stones are scarce, and timber is every year becoming scarce, and the demands for it for other purposes are increasing in rapid extent. Indeed, the real and threatened scarcity of fencing materials has already caused many to inquire, "How are the next generation to protect their fields, and secure their crops from the depredations of domestic animals?"

We rejoice that a remedy is likely to appear in the introduction of *wire* for a fencing material, if it answers the purposes anticipated by many a cool-headed, sound-minded man. Its introduction will become very general, not only where other materials are scarce or not to be obtained at all, but where they are abundant, from the fact that it will not only be cheaper in the outset, but "in the long run," than any other fence that can be invented. Let is count the cost and see.

T. C. Peters, Esq., in an article in the January number of the American Agriculturist, makes an estimate of the cost of this kind of fence by enumerating items, such as cost of wire, posts, labor, &c., at twenty-two cents per rod. We think this estimate too low for the country at large; and allowing it to be thirty-seven and a half cents per rod, we conceive that in a majority, if not in all cases, the balance of credit must be decidedly in its favor. What other fence can be made so cheap? Surely not a wall, for a half wall usually costs fifty cents a rod; and then it must be raised by poles to give it sufficient height, which may safely be concluded to raise the expense, at a probable average cost of such poles, including transportation, to seventy-five cents per rod. If a wall of sufficient height to keep cattle, &c., in their enclosures, is built, no one will suppose the cost to be less than a dollar per rod. Then such walls must have sufficient width, varying from two to three, and perhaps four feet, at the bottom, to give them solidity. By dividing even a small farm into necessary fields, with these walls, an acre of land is soon entirely occupied, and twice as much injured by the dark shadows they cast over it.

We dismiss the wall, and look at the rail fence. If a worm or zigzag fence, it will require one hundred rails for ten rods, or ten rails for one rod. The price of these rails will vary, of course, according as timber is plenty or otherwise. In New England, where we are consuming the productions of the forest so fast, and the demands for building timber and fuel are increasing so rapidly, five dollars per hundred for rails, delivered, we should think a low average. Here, then, for the ten rails to lay a rod of fence, you pay fifty cents. Then you have the cost of labor to get and lay the foundation, and lay up the rails, the cost of which will, of course, be in proportion to the price of labor in different localities. Then such fences are liable to be blown down by high winds, breakage of rails, &c., which will cause them to afflict the farmer with additional expenses from year to year. These also occupy, to the exclusion of the plough, a strip of land from four to five feet.

In some sections we have seen *post* and rail fences, the only plea for the economy of which must be, we are sure, that they occupy less land; for the expense of cutting, mortising and setting posts must fully equal the cost of the additional number of rails for a worm fence.

But to return to the wire fence. If it will answer the purpose of protection, — and we see no reason to the contrary, — it must be, in our mind, surely entitled to precedence, even at the same cost of other fences; for, in the first place, it will occupy but little space, and will injure no land by shading it. Secondly, when once thoroughly built, its durability must be as great, if not greater, than other fences, excepting heavy walls. Thirdly, its appearance on the farm must be very neat and tasteful, which will render it desirable, particularly for street fences, (if we must yield to those who disregard the law, and let their animals run at large at our expense,) and around buildings.

How many days is the farmer taxed in various, if not nearly all parts of New England, every winter, in breaking paths through ponderous snow drifts, to open the necessary thoroughfares of business! And how often is the traveller, bewildered by intricate mazes, crossing fields, and turning through barn-yards, delayed in his progress, and vexed in his soul, to avoid unsightly drifts! In nearly every instance these mountain masses of driven snow are indebted for their lodgment to the protecting fences on either side, which shield it from the rough blasts of the northern tempest. Wire fences, if wire will answer for fences, will remedy this evil at once and forever. So open that they will furnish no impediment to roaming winds, they will permit free and unincumbered passage onward, and instead of permitting these grievous annoyances to accumulate, they will scatter them in their furious gambols. What a comfort to man and his beasts would then be realized! The most appalling horrors of "a New England winter" annihilated, and an amount of vexatious and unproductive labor saved which would be gladdening to all who have realized its perplexity.

Yours truly,

WILLIAM BACON.

Elmwood, *Jan.* 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

TRANSPLANTING TREES.

Mr. Editor: As the season is approaching when the transplanting of trees will again commence, I propose, as briefly as the nature of the subject will admit, to state my own experience as to the best method of accomplishing this object in New England.

And first, as to the season of transplanting. I am well satisfied that, for deciduous trees of all kinds, the spring months are most favorable; and the sooner this can be done after the frost is out of the ground the better. My plan is to have the holes prepared in the autumn, when it is practicable, because the action of the frost and the snow and rain tend to loosen the earth beyond the hole upon all sides, and thus give the new fibres from the roots a better chance for penetrating the earth. Another advantage is that, by digging the holes in the fall, the decay of weeds, leaves, and other vegetable matter that collects in them, forms the best nutriment for the roots.

Evergreen trees may be planted a little later than deciduous trees; but I cannot recommend a later period than the 20th of May, and they will be sure to do well if planted at any time for a month previous.

We have all been cautioned against deep planting sufficiently to prevent the practice being very common; nevertheless we are apt to commit a very great error, causing a similar result, by loosening the earth too deeply. We propose now to speak of the manner of preparing the ground for the reception of the tree, by which this error will appear manifest.

In digging the holes, reference, of course, must be had to the size of the tree to be planted. The holes should be at least a foot wider in circumference than the roots, but no deeper than is sufficient to sink

the crown of the stem where it rises from the roots to a level with the natural level of the ground, or, if any thing, a little above it. If we examine a tree growing in its natural state, we shall always find that the tree bulges out of the ground, and that the diverging roots are generally visible; while the tree which we plant is set so low that it looks more like a stake driven into the ground than a tree. It is a common practice, after digging the holes as deep as the tree is intended to be placed, to loosen the earth still deeper down, sometimes throwing it out, and putting in mould, sods, or manure. The effect of this is, that the tree settles down with the earth, as it hardens, and gets below its natural level, to its great and lasting injury.

In taking up the tree to be transplanted, we are apt to be short-sighted and careless, and we cut away and break the roots without mercy. The proper method of proceeding is, to take off the earth carefully above the roots, then proceed well outside, and trench round the tree till the operator gets below the tier of roots; then, by passing the spade under and towards the centre of the tree, he can loosen it in its bed, and draw it out. Before setting it out, let him examine the roots carefully, and cut off smoothly every end of a root that has been broken, and it is then ready for planting. To do this in the best manner, it should be placed as near as possible in a similar position to the old one, the roots should be carefully straightened out, and the earth filled in among them by the hand. It should not be trodden down until this has been done, and the earth all in, and then only pressed upon with the foot. No water is necessary; on the contrary, in nine cases out of ten, it is hurtful. If a tree has been out of the ground for a long time, and the roots have become dry, it is advisable to make a puddle of mud, and dip the roots in it before setting the tree.

Mulching trees, after transplanting, is a most simple and ready mode of protecting them from heat and drought. I have never known it to fail in keeping a tree healthy and vigorous against the severest drought. Grass, weeds, stable litter, or even stones around the trees, is a sufficient mulching. This, in our climate, is an essential never to be disregarded, either in fall or spring planting.

Pruning is another important essential to be observed in transplanting deciduous trees. Every tree, when transplanted, loses some portion of its roots; and it follows, of course, that it loses a part of its ability to support its branches, and to furnish the requisite supply of food for a vigorous growth the ensuing season. It becomes necessary, therefore, to sacrifice a part of the tree above the ground, somewhat in proportion to that which has been lost beneath. Now, there are several modes of doing this. I have tried them all, and am convinced that the best, simplest, and the only one that does not detract from the beauty of the tree is, to cut off from every branch, except the topmost leading shoot, the whole of the previous year's growth down to a vigorous bud on the stem. A few more words about transplanting, and I will finish my desultory remarks. A damp day is better than a bright day; a still day is preferable to a windy one, for transplanting trees; and never expose for a moment, if possible, the roots of any tree, particularly an evergreen tree, to the wind. I have never seen this sufficiently attended to. Where a tree is to lie, if only for a few moments, exposed to wind or sun, a mat should be at hand to protect it. More trees are lost from a desiccation of the roots by a drying wind than from any other cause.

Lynn, *Jan.* 1849. R. S. F.

Insects are found in slate, and flies and ants in amber.

For the New England Farmer.

"THE WIND BLOWETH WHERE IT LISTETH."

Mr. Editor: There have been writers on the philosophy of the winds, and windy philosophers have written on many subjects; but I have seen no satisfactory reasons given by any one why the wind should vary in its temperature so much as it frequently does when coming from a northern direction. The expansion of the air in one place has been considered the cause of the rushing in of a more condensed air from another place to produce an equilibrium. It is a common occurrence, after severe cold weather in winter, for the air to moderate, and a thaw to commence, while the wind is at the north; but it is more frequently the case when the wind is from the south. What should take place to rarefy the air at the north in the winter, and cause the wind to rush in from the south, has been somewhat a puzzle in my mind.

Philosophy readily accounts for the cold chill at the commencement of a south wind after cold winds from an opposite direction: it is evident that the cold air which has gone from the north to the south on the change of the wind to that direction, must return again, and continue to moderate gradually as the air moves from a warmer climate. But how to account for a rarefaction in the air and thaw, while the wind is from the north, after severe cold in the winter, no philosopher as yet has given me satisfaction. Whether it is caused by subterranean heat, or electricity, or whatever circumstance, the subject will admit of an interesting discussion for farmers in the leisure hours of winter, and they can enlighten one another through the columns of the New England Farmer.

If farmers are not all philosophers, they ought to become so. Men of no profession are benefited more by a knowledge of natural philosophy than farmers are. The more knowledge of causes and effects a man has, the better he is qualified to cultivate the earth, and reap the reward of his knowledge in an augmented harvest. The earth is so constituted that the circulation of the air is an operation necessary to the existence of all breathing animals and growing vegetables. A stagnated air would soon show its deadly effects on all animated nature. In this world of changes the winds are subject to irregularities, and, like the passions of men unrestrained, sometimes hurry into a tempest, and lay prostrate all in their way, causing devastation to dwellings, forests, fields, and even to animal life.

Moderate winds are exhilarating to the spirits; especially the zephyrs will almost produce an ecstasy upon a sensitive, healthy set of nerves. The winds are as beneficial to growing vegetation as they are to animal life; without which the growing vegetables would be destitute of that exercise which is necessary to all animal and vegetable existence; without them the forest trees would become puny and weak, like the man who grows up without exercise. The great Author of nature, in his wisdom, has made the winds, notwithstanding all their irregularities, one of the great essentials in his design of bestowing temporal blessings upon his creatures.

Wishing you prosperity in your endeavors to communicate knowledge, and do good,

SILAS BROWN.

Wilmington, *Jan.* 23, 1849.

APPLES IN MAINE.

Colonel John Moulton, of Porter, Me., on the hilly lands nearly forty miles north-west of Portland, is one of the most extensive fruit-growers in that state, and he is making numerous experiments on the various

kinds of apples which are recommended as excellent.

A few years ago, he sent to us some as large and fine Yellow Bellflowers as we have ever seen in this market, not excepting those from New York and Pennsylvania; and when raised in Maine they proved to be a winter apple, and some of them were fine in March. As Colonel Moulton then thought that he should make the Bellflower his leading apple, and we have supposed, from its uncertainty as to bearing, fairness, and quality, that it would not hold that high rank in New England, we lately wrote to him on the subject, and received the following communication; and though a part of a private correspondence, we take the liberty to publish it, as it contains valuable general information.

The Late Baldwin, of which Colonel Moulton speaks, is a synonyme of the Baldwin, a name which we gave to a modification of this fruit. It is usually more flat, harder, and keeps longer, than the common Baldwin, and it bears more in odd years, for instance, 1845, '7, '9. Those who complain at our applying this term to a peculiar modification of this famous fruit, are referred to the following communication for a confirmation of our views.

Letter from Colonel Moulton.

DEAR SIR: Yours of late was duly received; and in answer to your inquiries, I will state that I have five kinds of apples that may be sold to most persons for Baldwins. The kind that I call the real Baldwin, is a great bearer in even years. The tree is hardy, grows well, and will do well on very wet land, if some top-dressing is put around it annually.

The kind that I prefer, you call Late Baldwin. The fruit is larger, keeps some two months longer, and bears quite as well. This fruit has sold in Saco, the past fall, for three dollars per barrel. This apple bears nearly as well in odd as the even years. It is the best apple, taking all things into consideration, that I know of. My Rhode Island Greenings are good bearers, the fruit fair, but not equal to the Baldwins in yielding. The Bellflower has done poorly for two years past; before that time they did quite well. The tree needs close pruning, good cultivation, and a warm soil.

The Nodhead [Jewett's Red. Ed.] has done poorly with me as yet; they are very knotty. I have some trees on a warm, light soil, out of the way of the wind, which I suspect is the cause of their being imperfect. My Porter apple has not been in bearing long enough for me to ascertain its bearing properties. I have the impression that they must be well pruned, and the land dressed and cultivated to make them profitable. I have a considerable variety of Winter Sweetings, yet nothing very valuable. The Oxford Sweeting, a native apple, is the best for the table I have ever seen, but a poor bearer.

I have some others that I have not proved long enough to give an opinion on them. I have some twenty varieties of Russettings, all very poor [bearers. Ed.] but two kinds. The Golden Russet was the best bearer I had in 1847. Very good this year; makes the best dried apple I have ever seen; good, also, for pies, preserves, and quite a good eating apple. The tree is hardy, grows well, and bears neglecting. The other I call the Oxford Russet, medium bearer, keeps through the summer, is juicy, somewhat acid; very much sought after by the sick.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN MOULTON.

PORTER, *Dec.* 1848.

MANURES.

Second agricultural meeting at the State House, January 23. The President, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, in the chair. Subject, "*Manures.*"

The president opened the discussion. He spoke of the great importance of manures, and said that the most fertile lands would become exhausted by constant cropping, without manure; even the rich land in the west will fail. He was not opposed to the use of stable manures, but they were expensive, and other manures equally valuable could be made at less cost. He made a compost of one cord of meadow muck, twelve bushels of ashes, and six bushels of crushed bones, which he had used with excellent success. The best manure that he had used was composed of animal manure and charcoal dust, the latter costing five dollars per cord. Charcoal is a great absorbent of the ammonia that falls in rains, and it gives it out as food for the growing plant. Mr. Pell, of New York, raised eighty bushels of wheat to the acre, by the use of fifty bushels of charcoal dust. Charcoal is also a valuable disinfectant.

Mr. J. E. Teschemacher, of Boston, stated that in this subject were three great considerations: 1. The nature and quality of the crop; 2. The nature of the soil; 3. The nature and the application of the manure. In England, the land, though well manured, failed, after a while, to give good crops of wheat, unless dressed with the phosphate of lime. We should consider what the crop extracts from the soil, and supply those elements in manure. The most important consideration is what part of the crops puts the most bone and muscle on the animal. Before Liebig was born, it was known that phosphate of lime formed bones, but not that phosphates formed muscle. All soils consist mostly of sand and clay. The former makes a stiff, strong stalk for plants; but it must be dissolved by potash, which is contained in clay. Clay does not constitute a part of plants, but it is important in retaining potash and ammonia. Clay exposed to frost falls to powder, and is excellent for compost. Charcoal is a good absorbent of ammonia, but clay will answer for this purpose, and it is more plenty. Ammonia is valuable for the growing plant, all but the seed. He considered the better way to make a compost of manure, and let it decompose or become carbonized before used. All excrements of animals and animal matter is good for manure.

Mr. Buckminster, of the Ploughman, doubted the statement that Mr. Pell raised eighty bushels of wheat to the acre. In the west the largest crop was forty bushels to the acre.

Mr. Bartlett, of the Cultivator, said that experience had taught him that to farm without manure was unprofitable. Crops failed from the exhaustion of the soil, from the ingredients carried away in the crops. In the forests and the prairies of the west, whatever grew upon the land was returned, which kept up the fertility. If all the crops taken from an acre of land was fed to a cow or a horse, and the manure that was made while the animal was con-

suming the crop was returned to the soil, there would be but very little exhaustion.

Hon. Mr. Brooks, of Princeton, inquired to what soils charcoal should be applied. He remarked that brine and plaster were good to fix ammonia. Would not these do as well as charcoal?

Mr. Teschemacher replied, that charcoal dust should be put into the compost heap and applied to any soil.

Then followed a conversation in regard to the effects of charcoal, and it was settled that it was indestructible, and not a fertilizer, but an absorbent of fertilizing gases.

Mr. Brooks said that he composted his manures in a barn cellar, and he found that sixteen loads thus prepared were worth as much as twenty-four loads as he used to apply them green, and the shrinkage was small in proportion, not more than one fourth or one eighth. In England burnt clay is used as an absorbent.

Hon. J. C. Gray, of Cambridge, said, that he used plaster of Paris as an absorbent, and that is as cheap as any substance. A great improvement had been made by composting manures, which prevented waste by burning or becoming fire-fangled, as it is called.

Mr. William Parker, of Boston, (owns a paper mill in Sudbury,) said, that we ought to take care of manure as well as make it. Farmers lost much manure by exposure to rains, winds, sun, and frost. Freezing is very injurious to manure. He uses sand under his horses as an absorbent of the liquid manure. With peat, and dust, and leach from his mill, which is similar to soap suds, he made four or five hundred loads of manure in a year. This was frequently removed to his barn cellar, and spread over the animal manure.

Hon. Mr. Leonard, of Norton, observed that economy was necessary, in order for the farmer to make a profit, as labor was high. He used the fine dust from coal-pits, in his farm yard and barn cellar; if not enough, he used fine earth.

Governor Reed said, that he was much pleased with the practical remarks. He used three parts of peat with one of animal manure, and in that way made four times as much manure.

This subject is continued for discussion, and will be reported in our next number.

BREEDING HORSES.

We clip the following from a report made at the last fair of the Windsor County Agricultural Society, by the Committee on Horses. The report is the best paper we have seen among those yet produced by the agency of our County Societies. The *reasons* for making the awards are given in full, with excellent practical remarks on the business of breeding horses. It will repay a careful perusal. — *Vermont State Agriculturist.*

Your committee are of opinion that there is no branch of stock-raising more profitable than the rearing of the best of horses; and they consider there is no trouble in accomplishing this, provided that none but the very best stallions are bred to, and none are bred from, any but excellent horses, which, by the way, are very scarce and hard to be obtained, and for the following reasons: Owing to the high price good "horse flesh" will ever command, the majority of our best mares, as soon as they come to maturity, find their way into our village and city markets, and are never allowed to breed, save a few that may be returned to the country after becoming unsound in limb, or having their constitution broke down with hard usage and old age; and many that remain among the farmers are valued so highly for their labor and fine appearance, that they are never permitted to breed until they are in a similar condition to those returned from our business markets. The consequence is, that nearly all of our horses are produced from the most ordinary mares, or unsound ones. An unsoundness of the limbs may not impair the value of a breeding mare, but if she has a weakened constitution, it must more or less impair the strength, speed, and endurance of the offspring, although they may have fine forms. Your committee believe it would be far more profitable to purchase and breed from mares worth one hundred and fifty dollars than from those whose average value for the last ten years, in a sound state, has been no more than forty dollars, (and this we believe is the class of a majority of our breeding mares.) From mares of this stamp, and to good stallions, we cannot raise colts which, at four years old, would have sold, through the above-mentioned time, higher than fifty dollars to seventy-five dollars; whereas, from the first class of mares, and to the same stallions, we could with equal certainty raise colts that would command double these prices, and occasionally one may command four times as much.

Another thing that has a great tendency to multiply the number of poor horses is, that farmers too often estimate the profit of raising colts by the first cost of getting them — bestowing their patronage where they can be insured with a foal for the least money, and frequently to a horse of ordinary qualities; when, by the addition of a few dollars, they might secure the services of a horse whose stock would afford them a profit similar to that spoken of with the best class of breeding mares. It should be remarked, however, that stallions are of a much higher quality than the breeding mares. Take them as a whole, there has been a great improvement in them, within a few years. And although we may have only a few but what are valuable horses, yet there is a great difference between them, — and even among those of a very high order. Independent of the pecuniary advantages of breeding from none but the very best of horses and sires, one may enjoy according to the fancy of the owner, from five dollars to twenty dollars' worth of satisfaction, in producing a superior animal.

Allow your committee to throw out a few hints in relation to breeding colts — docking, nicking, framing. Colts should always be kept in a good condition; not extravagantly fed, yet they should have something more than dry food the first two winters. The starving of colts will not only impede their growth, but will bring on a contraction of the ribs, cords, and muscles, especially about the chests and shoulders, that will more or less impair their power, action, speed, and endurance, after coming to maturity.

It is the opinion of your committee that a horse will have the most perfect strength and action with a natural tail; yet for appearance they would recommend a moderate docking, which should be governed by the build of the animal and the character of the tail; but we should very seldom leave a dock of less than twelve inches; and the docking should be performed when the colts are one or two years old, (one year old is preferable.) Colts may be docked at these ages with less injury to them than when nearly grown; they will have more of a bush to the tail, with longer hair, and will be inclined to carry it in a more elevated position. Nicking should be

looked upon as a cruel and useless practice, which undoubtedly impairs the strength and action of the horse, and may sometimes seriously injure the constitution.

Great care should be used, in breaking colts, to have them kind; and there is but little difficulty in this, provided they have proper and gentle treatment. They very seldom need but little if any whipping. They should be learned to do their work in an easy and handsome manner, and without fretting. A horse that is trained to chafe and dance in the harness, or under the saddle, may do very well for fops and horse-jockeys, but it is not what a sensible man wants in a horse designed for service, as it is a waste of strength and action without accomplishing any useful purpose. And in forming an opinion of a restless horse, it will be well to consider whether the apparent energy and action is *natural*, or whether it is brought about by *training* and the *fear* of the *braid*. All of which is respectfully submitted.

In behalf of the Committee,
EBENEZER BRIDGE, *Chairman*.

LANGUAGE OF BARN-YARD FOWLS.

Fowls use a great variety of language that becomes familiar to those who have the care of them, and the voice of the parent is well known to the young. When a hawk is approaching, the cautionary voice of the mother induces her young brood to hide instantly. When the danger is past, a different note of her voice calls them forth.

We put a hen and her brood of chickens into a garden of vegetables to devour the insects that had become numerous. They all ate freely under the approving voice of their mother. We gently drove them to a carrot-bed, where large, green worms were on the plants. As soon as the hen came near these worms, she gave a caution to her chickens, and her language was perfectly understood, and, with implicit obedience, they made their escape from the place of danger. These are but few among numerous cases. The following extract from the "Natural History and Antiquities of Shelborne" depicts, in beautiful style, the power of language possessed by barn-yard fowls.

"No inhabitants of a yard seem possessed of such a variety of expression and so copious a language as common poultry. Take a chicken of four or five days old, and hold it up to a window where there are flies, and it will immediately seize its prey, with little twitterings of complacency; but if you tender it a wasp or a bee, at once its note becomes harsh, and expressive of disapprobation and a sense of danger. When a pullet is ready to lay, she intimates the event by a joyous and easy, soft note. Of all the occurrences of their life, that of laying seems to be the most important; for no sooner has a hen disburdened herself, than she rushes forth with a clamorous kind of joy, which the cock and the rest of his mistresses immediately adopt. The tumult is not confined to the family concerned, but catches from yard to yard, and spreads to every homestead within hearing, till at last the whole village is in an uproar. As soon as the hen becomes a mother, her new relation demands a new language; she then runs clucking and screaming about, and seems agitated as if possessed. The father of the flock has also a considerable vocabulary; if he finds food, he calls a favorite to partake; and if a bird of prey passes over, with a warning voice he bids his family beware. The gallant chanticleer has, at command, his amorous phrases and his terms of defiance. But the sound by which he is best known is his crowing: by this he has been distinguished in all ages as the countryman's clock or 'larum, as the watchman that proclaims the divisions of the night. Thus the poet elegantly styles him

'——the crested cock, whose clarion sounds
The silent hours.'"

FLAX-WATER AS MANURE.

It is well known to farmers, or it was in days of flax-raising, that flax is a great exhauster, and will not bear a succession of crops; and in Ireland and Holland, where a great deal of flax is raised, this crop is taken only once in five or six years, as it exhausts the soil of some ingredients which it requires several years to restore.

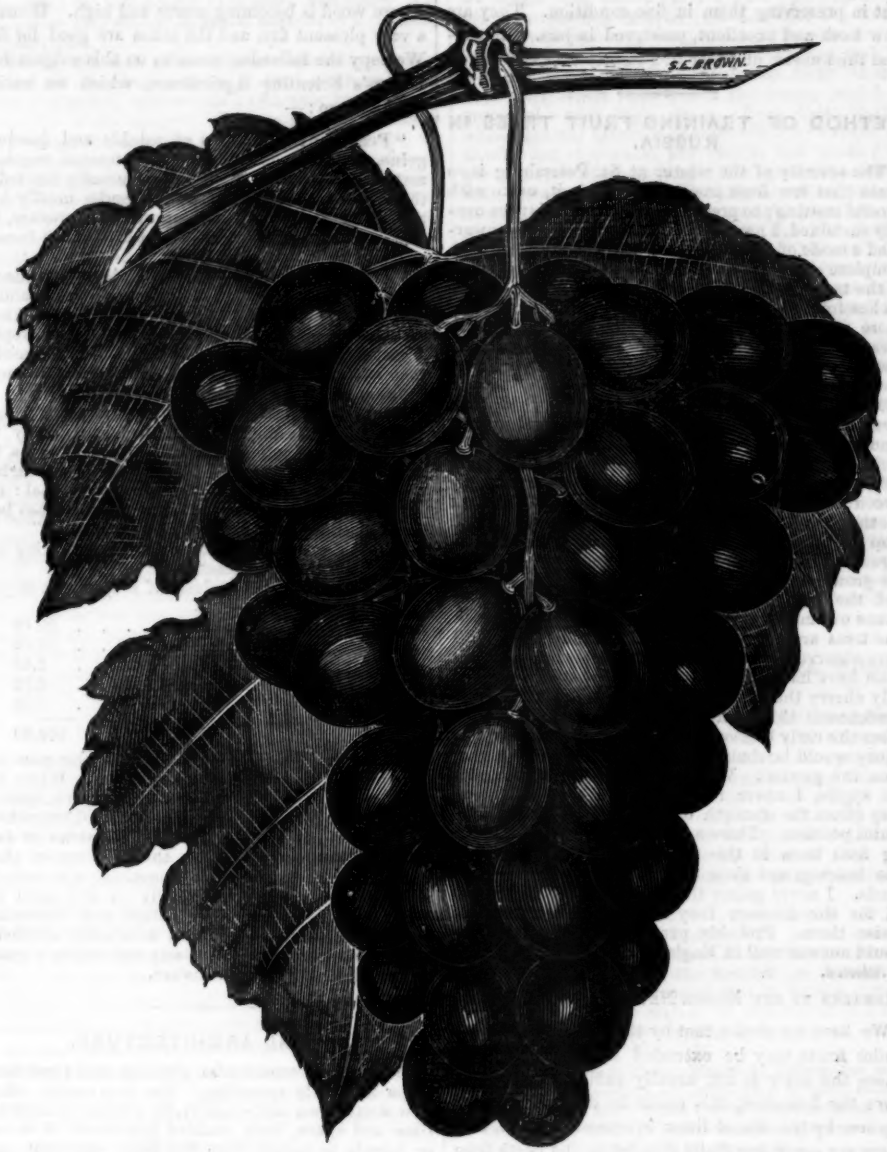
But by scientific experiments that have been made within a few years, it is ascertained that those extracted from the earth by the flax, which tends so much to exhaustion, are not in the fibre which is wanted for use, but mostly in the refuse, and the soluble parts that remain in the water in which the flax was rotted, water-rotting being the general practice in those countries.

By returning the refuse of flax, including the water, to the soil, it would bear a succession. Thus science aids the practical farmer and explains what might appear as a mystery. This view of the subject is confirmed by the following article:—

Flax-Steep Water as a Manure for Flowers.

"I used the water in which I had flax steeped as a manure for flowers last year. I followed up the experiment this year; and although I was from home for five weeks, during which time none of the plants had been watered with the flax-steep, still I am able to say that those dahlias to which I used the water early continued to keep ahead of those not so treated. The latter grew from two and a half to three feet high, while those to which steep-water was applied, grew from seven to eight feet high, when three of them broke down, the sticks being too weak to support them against the wind; but their beauty, from the abundance of bloom, surpassed any thing that I have seen. I have not manured my garden for these last four years, being determined to keep it poor, in order to try what effect flax-water would have in producing good full-grown flowers in cold worn-out soil. I am now able to assert that none of my neighbors had such a blow of roses or dahlias as I have had; and to them I can refer, as they were witnesses of the fact. I had, by the use of flax-water last year, dahlias from ten to twelve feet high, loaded with the most perfect flowers. This rich liquid manure (for it deserves the name) will be found invaluable to market gardeners and growers of flowers. I find it to annihilate the green fly." — *J. Dickson, British Flax Mills.*

Lost wealth may be restored by industry — the wreck of health regained by temperance — forgotten knowledge restored by study — alienated friendship soothed into forgetfulness — even forfeited reputation won by penitence and virtue. But who ever again looked upon his vanished hours — recalled his slighted years, stamped them with wisdom, and effaced from Heaven's record the fearful blot of wasted time?



ISABELLA GRAPE.

We have a fine soil for the grape, and the genial influence of rain and sunshine. The great difficulty is, that we have not delicious grapes well adapted to our climate. Our native grapes, which are numerous, are usually austere or acid. Many experiments are making by raising seedlings from our native grapes, and from various distant and foreign kinds; and we have no doubt that we shall have, by-and-by, a good assortment of grapes ripening in succession during the season of this fruit.

At present the best grape for this section of the country is the Isabella. It is from the south, but it is usually hardy here. It is a most luxuriant grower, and great bearer. The branches are large, and the berries of good size. The quality of the Isabella, when well ripened, is sweet, rich, and excellent. After being fairly tried here, it is cultivated more than all other kinds.

This grape ripens rather late in this climate, so that it fails in cold seasons, unless it is in a warm situation. But this will be the standard and principal kind, until something new is introduced. Our engraving is from a specimen presented by Mr. G. A. Godbold, Chelsea, who is not only very successful in

raising excellent Isabellas, in almost every season, but in preserving them in fine condition. They are now fresh and excellent, preserved in jars, with several thicknesses of paper tied tightly over the top.

METHOD OF TRAINING FRUIT TREES IN RUSSIA.

The severity of the winter at St. Petersburg is so great that few fruit trees will survive it, even with careful matting; to prevent the loss which is thus usually sustained, I have for more than twenty years pursued a mode of training which has been attended with complete success. It consists in leading the branches of the trees on horizontal trellises only ten or twelve inches from the ground. When the winter sets in, there are heavy falls of snow; and as the frost increases, the snow generally augments, by which the trees are entirely buried, and receive no injury from the most intense frost. The winters of 1819 and 1820 were very severe, notwithstanding which, last summer, I had a great crop of apples, and all the tender sorts, while none of the gardens in the neighborhood produced any; even many of their trees, although doubly matted, were killed. From my Green Gage and Orleans Plums I gathered ripe fruit on the 29th September last; I had also a very full crop of Morello Cherries. Another very great advantage of training trees in the above method consists in the growth of the wood; it being of equal strength, and the fruit produced being all alike, the bloom comes out much earlier, and the crop ripens sooner. The trees are always clean and free from insects; I have observed this even while some standards near them have had their leaves curled by aphides. The only cherry that does not succeed in this way is our Blackheart; this I attribute to the damps which affect the early blossoms; but in a milder climate this injury would be obviated by placing the trellis higher from the ground. When the trellis decays under the apples, I never renew it, as the trees always keep (from the strength of the branches) their horizontal position. There are other advantages of treating fruit trees in this manner: they come sooner into bearing, and their fruit is not affected by high winds. I never gather the apples, but let them drop off, for the distance they fall is not sufficient to bruise them. Probably pears trained in this way would answer well in England.

— *Selected.* JOSEPH BUSCH.

REMARKS BY THE EDITOR NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

We have no doubt that by the above plan many tender fruits may be extended farther north; and where the snow is not usually sufficiently deep to cover the branches, this could be done at a small expense by the use of litter, evergreen boughs, &c., There are many fine fruits that fail in the north from cold winters, not for want of summers sufficiently long and warm to bring the fruit to maturity.

PEAT.

Peat abounds in many parts of New England; and peat bogs are often adjacent or near sandy soils, which may be greatly improved by this valuable fertilizer. Some peat bogs that were considered almost worthless twenty years ago, are now worth two hundred dollars an acre. Many farmers with two cords of peat and one of animal manure make a manure worth as much per cord as that wholly from animals.

In some sections of this state, peat is used extensively for fuel, which is an important advantage where wood is becoming scarce and high. It makes a very pleasant fire, and the ashes are good for fuel. We copy the following remarks on this subject from Rogers's Scientific Agriculture, which we noticed not long ago: —

"Peat usually consists of soluble and insoluble geine, with a mixture of undecomposed vegetable matter and some earths." It is usually limited to the colder parts of the globe; it results mostly from the accumulation and decomposition of mosses, but also from any other vegetable matters which become mixed with it.

The lower stratum of peat beds decays, while the plants on the surface continue to grow, thus adding new matter annually, until they attain the thickness, in some cases, of thirty or forty feet. In tropical climates, the heat produces decomposition so speedily that vegetables are resolved into their elements before peat can be formed.

Peat is usually found also in low, boggy or marshy districts. According to Dr. McCulloch, "by the long-continued action of water and other agents, the geine of peat is changed into bitumen and carbon, which constitute lignite and bituminous coal: in a few instances the process of bitumenization has been found considerably advanced in beds of peat."

Peat is remarkable for its power of preserving animal matters from putrefaction.

The following is an analysis of a specimen of peat from Massachusetts: —

Soluble geine,	26.00
Insoluble do.	59.60
Sulphate of lime,	4.48
Phosphate of do.	0.72
Silicates,	9,20
	100.00

When the decay is far advanced, the peat is a dark-colored and sometimes solid mass. When less advanced in decomposition, it is light brown, spongy, and contains pieces of vegetables not yet disorganized. In this state it is used in some countries as fuel. Peat is sometimes sour, from the presence of phosphoric and acetic acids: it sometimes also contains ammonia: it decomposes slowly in the open air. When mixed with lime or potash and fermenting barn-yard manure, it becomes a valuable fertilizing agent, and may be used on any soil which requires the addition of vegetable matter.

RURAL ARCHITECTURE.

The taste for ornamental planting and rural landscape is rapidly spreading. The iron roads, which now unite town and country, by almost annihilating time and space, have enabled gentlemen of wealth or leisure to escape from the dust, and heat, and turmoil of the crowded city, and enjoy the pleasures of a country life. No person, who feels an interest in rural improvement, can travel in any part of the country, and not be impressed with the great strides which have been made within a few years. More especially in New England is this taste every where apparent. Intersected in all directions, as the country is, by railroads, in the vicinity of Boston and other cities, the number of suburban residences has not only greatly increased, but they have been laid out and embellished with a degree of taste which reflects much credit upon the proprietors, when we recollect that in but few instances have practical men been consulted. We are aware that many of these suburban grounds would have far greater attractions, had they been laid out in true taste; yet their general neatness and beauty show

how great is the desire to possess something approaching that object, so much coveted — a pleasant country-seat.

We are desirous of contributing all in our power to aid in the dissemination of true taste in ornamental planting, and we shall endeavor to give more attention to the subject. Zealous as we have been to promote the interests of horticultural science, we have directed less attention to rural improvement than is our intention hereafter. Not that we consider mere plans of so much importance, as the architectural journals will be consulted for these; but to give, occasionally, specimens of some of the best examples of ornamental gardening in our vicinity. — *Magazine of Horticulture.*

For the New England Farmer.

DOVER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Editor: The farmers of this town held a meeting last evening, and adopted a constitution for an Agricultural Society, reported by a committee chosen at a previous meeting. The following officers were chosen: Calvin Richards, Esq., President; Charles Ford and Captain Timothy Allen, Vice-Presidents; Elijah Perry, Secretary; William Cleveland, Treasurer; Daniel Mann, Esq., Deacon Calvin Bigelow, Jared Allen, George Cleveland, Ralph Battelle, John Battelle, and H. W. Jones, Directors. After the above organization, the subject for discussion which had been proposed at a previous meeting was taken up, and a lively discussion ensued. All present were well pleased. At nine o'clock the meeting adjourned to meet again in one week. — *Com.*

Dover, *Jan.* 16, 1849.

Editorial Remarks.

The above is another evidence that the spirit of improvement is pervading the land, and the formation of societies will effectually encourage and disseminate this spirit, and promote the worthy objects for which such associations are established. It would be well for the country, if a society for improvement in agriculture, in all its various branches, was formed in every town in the Union. We would not except Hull, and still smaller towns. Where there are only five or six men in a town, there will be a great advantage in having a town Agricultural Society in full operation. Should there be a want of members to fill all the offices, give some two or three offices, as the duties will not be very arduous where the society is small. Associated action is powerful, and when directed to laudable purposes, it has a most salutary effect on society.

AFFECTION FOR OFFSPRING.

One of the strongest feelings of animals is that of affection for their offspring; and, indeed, so intense is this impulse among the greater number, that it may be said to exceed the care which they employ for their own preservation, or the indulgence of their own appetites. Among insects and some other of the inferior tribes, the care and solicitude of providing for their young engrosses the better half of their existence; for they labor during the prime of life to provide a comfortable nest and proper food for their offspring, which they are never destined to see, death overtaking them before they can enjoy the pleasure of beholding their future family. Many timid animals, that shrink from danger while they are single and alone, become bold and pugnacious when surrounded by their young. Thus the domestic hen will face any danger and encounter any foe in order to protect her brood of chickens; and the lark and linnet will allow themselves to be taken in their nest rather than desert the young which lie protected under their wings. Even those animals whose general nature is characterized by savage and unrelenting fierceness, are gentle, and tender, and affectionate to their young. The grim lion fondles with paternal softness his playful cubs; and the savage bear has been known to interpose her own body between the deadly musket and her helpless offspring. But this feeling in animals lasts only for a season. After they have nourished and brought up their young, these go out from their parents, all further ties between them are broken up, and they know each other no more. How different is this from human connections! The fond mother watches over the long and helpless period of infancy, instils into early childhood lessons of wisdom and virtue, and feels her hopes and affections increase with every year that brings an increase of reason. Nor are such family ties severed by death. The child, on its part, returns the care and affection of its parents; and when old age and second childhood come upon them, the children then feel it their greatest happiness to repay in acts of kindness and attention the debt of gratitude which is justly due. What a moral beauty is thus thrown over the common instinctive affections, and how greatly superior appears man's nature to that of the mere brute! — *British Quarterly.*

PLOUGHING IN OR BURNING CORN-STALKS.

Mr. Bateham: There is one practice among farmers at the West which I regret to see, and hope a substitute will be found. I allude to the practice of breaking down, then raking and burning cornstalks in the spring, "to get them out of the way."

The ground under the cornstalk windrows may be benefited by the ashes, but the general field is most certainly impoverished by the loss of that which should be allowed to decompose upon or beneath its surface.

Some landlords require their tenants to plough in the stalks; but ordinarily this is a somewhat difficult operation. I have heard that in the southwest portion of Ohio, the farmers use a large roller with knives, so constructed that it breaks down and cuts to pieces the stalks, (at one operation,) so that they can be easily turned under by an ordinary plough.

Will you have the goodness to inform me where I can obtain a pattern or description of such machine? or, if you do not possess the information, please make the inquiry through your excellent paper.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

H. L. ELLSWORTH.

Lafayette, Indiana, *Jan.* 1849.

Remarks. — We have no knowledge of such an implement as the one referred to above being in use in this state, or elsewhere. If any of our readers have, they will please inform us. We think such a roller might be constructed without difficulty, to work on prairie and bottom lands where no stones are found. — *Ed. Ohio Cultivator.*

Temperance puts wood on the fire, flour in the barrel, meat in the tub, vigor in the body, intelligence in the brain, and spirit into the whole composition of man.

Domestic Department.

Aid Children in their Studies. — The good mother, or other discreet member of the family, can do much to encourage children in their studies. Even when the parent is not well skilled in the branches the child is attending to, she may exercise a powerful influence by showing to the child that she is interested in its success.

If children sit down to what they consider a task, and see no other member of the family attending to study, or taking any interest in their progress, it may be irksome, especially when all the rest of the family seem to be free from care or labor, and enjoying life in a cheerful manner, apparently without the labor of thought or reflection.

Many are qualified to aid children essentially in their studies, and all have the power of encouragement, which often operates like a charm upon the juvenile mind, and causes difficulties that loomed up to a discouragement in the distance, to diminish or vanish away, on near approach, or familiar acquaintance, through the aid of a kind friend.

Wheaten Grits, or Cracked Wheat. — We have often spoken of the great value of cracked wheat mush as an article of diet in constipation, and, in fact, for all persons, whether sick or well. Have the best of wheat — of good, plump, well-matured grain. Wash it if necessary. Have it cracked coarsely in a mill that will cut rather than crush it. The less you have ground at a time the better, for the fresh-ground article is the best. The wheat should be boiled in pure soft water; rain water is excellent. Boil this an hour at least, and two hours are still better; for the more we cook farinaceous food the better. Eat this once, and better two times a day as a regular meal, with a very moderate portion of milk, stewed fruit, honey, sugar, or molasses. But be very careful as to any or all of these condiments. If too much milk is taken, the head is oppressed, because of the stomach's too hard work; and so of the other articles, particularly sweets. This wheat, then, is one of the best possible forms of food for either sick or well.

The family of one of our patients has experimented a good deal, of late, upon making brown bread. The form that suits them best is that made by boiling the cracked wheat at least for two hours. This is then made into small cakes, with the use of a sufficient quantity of fine flour to make the dough adhere properly; the cakes are then baked without salt, yeast, or any addition whatever, and are much relished. It is one of the most foolish things in the world for a person to eat superfine bread, when he can possibly get any other. — *Dr. Shew's Water Cure Journal.*

Common Sausage-Meat. — Having cleared it from the skin, sinews, and gristle, take six pounds of the lean of young fresh pork, and three pounds of the fat, and mince it all as fine as possible. Take some dried sage, pick off the leaves and rub them to powder, allowing three teaspoonfuls to each pound of meat. Having mixed the fat and lean well together, and seasoned it with six teaspoonfuls of pepper, and the same quantity of salt, strew on the powdered sage, and mix the whole well with your hands. Put it away in a stone jar, packing it down hard; and keep it closely covered. When you wish to use the sausage-meat, make it into flat cakes; dredge them with flour, and fry them in butter or dripping over rather a slow fire, till they are well browned on both sides, and thoroughly done.

To make and fine Coffee. — Put a sufficient quantity of coffee into the pot and pour boiling water on it, stir it, and place it on the fire, bring it to a boil, and as soon as four or five bubbles have risen, take it off the fire, and pour out a teacupful and return it; set it down for one minute, then pour gently over the top one teacupful of cold water, let it stand one minute longer, and it will be bright and fine. The cold water (by its greater density) sinks, and carries the grounds with it.

To extract Grease from Clothes. — Lay a piece of brown paper doubled over the spot, and apply a hot iron.

Easy Way of Cleaning the Hands, for Dyers, Colorers, &c. — Take a small quantity of potash or pearlash in your hand, pour into it a small quantity of water, rub it well all over your hands with a little sand, then wash it off, take in your hand a small quantity of chemic, pour a little water into it, and rub it well on the hands in a semi-liquid state; wash the hands well in water, and they will be clean. If not perfectly clean, repeat the operation.

Boys' Department.

Economy in Sleeping. — It is difficult to determine how long a person should sleep, as different persons differ constitutionally, some requiring more sleep than others. But one thing is certain — that some boys sleep far more than is necessary, lying in bed eight or nine hours, when seven would be sufficient. Some lie so long that they become fatigued or tired with inaction.

If a boy sleep an hour too much each day, he will lose fourteen or fifteen days in a year, which will amount in ten years to nearly half a year; in fifty years, to more than two years. This is an important subject. Life is short, and we have a great deal to do in this brief period. How absurd, then, to waste in indolence, in a dormant, senseless state, so large a portion of precious time, which can never be recalled!

If a person would excel in any pursuit, either in business or study, he must husband his time, and sleep no more than is necessary for refreshment. The object of sleep is to give rest to the body and mind, and fit them for renewed and vigorous action; and he who sleeps merely to kill time or waste it, that it may not hang heavy on his hands, is indulging in a habit that will become so fixed, after a while, that it will give character to the whole boy and future man.

Let every boy consider whether he is wasting in bed the most precious hours of his life, and make an estimate on the loss. Let him calculate how much

he might earn, or what useful branches of study he might pursue, in the time now wasted in sleep — in a state of oblivion. Thousands of persons who shudder at the terrible thought suggested by the doctrine of annihilation, practise every day upon that very principle at which the soul recoils with horror.

A GUDE PROVERB. — The Scotch have this proverb: "A gude word is as soon said as an ill one." Will not every child, when he hears others use profane, indecent, ill words, or is tempted to use them himself, remember that "a *gude* word is as soon said as an *ill* one"? — *Well-Spring.*

POLITENESS. — Be polite at all times, and to all persons. Remember that you will lose nothing by thus doing; you will be more respected, and certainly more beloved, than you will be if you are in the habit of answering in an abrupt or unkind manner. It will also render you *happier* to do this; for if polite yourself, you will generally meet with politeness in return; and if you do not, you will still have the inward consciousness of having yourself acted correctly.— *Well-Spring.*

Health.

GOOD ADVICE. — *Patient.* Doctor, I called to see you about my health.

Doctor. Well, what is the trouble?

P. I can't say, doctor. I have been unwell a long time.

D. How long?

P. I should think five or six years.

D. How were you taken?

P. I don't now exactly remember, but I should think I felt weak all over.

D. What did you take?

P. Not very much for some.

D. About how much?

P. Several boxes of Brandreth's pills.

D. What more?

P. A number of Indian Vegetable.

D. What next?

P. A few bottles Swaim's Panacea.

D. Have you followed up this catalogue, and taken all the patent nostrums that can be named?

P. Nearly all, I think.

D. Do you think you have been benefited by any of them?

P. No, I fear not.

D. How long since you left off these medicines?

P. A number of weeks, except one kind.

D. What is your diet?

P. I eat almost every thing, and drink freely of tea, coffee, cocoa, ale, cider, and some spirits.

D. Do you use tobacco?

P. A little.

D. How much, and in what way?

P. I smoke cigars and chew — sometimes smoke a dozen a day.

D. Upon what kind of a bed do you sleep?

P. A feather bed in summer and winter.

D. How often do you bathe, or wash the whole of your body?

P. About once a year.

D. At what time do you retire at night, and rise in the morning?

P. I retire at all hours from nine to twelve o'clock, and rise usually late in the morning.

D. Is your appetite good?

P. It is variable — sometimes have none, and then again I am very voracious, eating all before me.

D. You have now given me some account of your habits and manner of living, and now what do you expect me to do?

P. I meant you to give medicine that will cure me.

D. My dear sir, I will put you on a course of life that will benefit you.

P. I want some medicine.

D. The first thing for you to do is to let all medicine alone. You have taken quite too much already. It is marvellous that you have not dosed and drugged yourself out of the world. Your stomach was never made to be a receptacle of all kinds of filth, like the Valley of Hinnom. This abominable course, which you acknowledge you have pursued for years, is of itself enough to ruin the best constitution. Besides, you are guilty of excess in almost every other respect, according to your own confession. Medicine will never remedy bad habits. It is utterly futile to think of living in gluttony, intemperance, and every excess, and keeping the body in health by medicine. Indulgence of the appetite, and indiscriminate dosing and drugging, have ruined the health and destroyed the life of more persons than famine, sword, and pestilence. If you will take my advice, you will become regular in your habits, eat and drink only wholesome things, sleep on a mattress, and retire and rise very regularly. Make a free use of water to purify the skin, and when sick, take counsel of the best physician you know, and follow nature. — *Note-Book of a Physician.*

CHILDREN. — Every romp with them is death to a score of gray hairs. Their games, moreover, present such a contrast to the rougher contest of bearded children, in the game of life, where money, power, and ambition are the stake, that it is refreshing to look at them and mingle with them, even were it only to realize that human nature yet retains something of its divine original. — *Selected.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD TOOLS. — Those mechanics only who have excellent tools can duly estimate their importance. Many work year after year with poor tools, when a little time or expense would supply them with good tools, enabling them to do far more work and do it better.

Sometimes a mechanic will use a poor implement, when a good one could be obtained for one or two dollars that would last for years, and would annually make a saving of more than double the cost of the implement.

A blacksmith who had far better and more tools than was common with others in the same business, hired an Englishman to assist him. The first thing the stranger did was to make tools, and for more than a week he plied himself closely to making tools, before he would do any other work. His time was well spent, as was shown by the neatness and despatch with which he worked, after being properly prepared.

A poor saw often requires twenty-five per cent. more strength than a good one. If it be used one sixth of the time, the loss would be about one day a month, which in a year would be equal to a sum

sufficient to buy a dozen good saws. Mechanics should make estimates occasionally. They will present results in a long run that are highly important, though they may seem trifling for a single day.

Mr. Editor: We hear a great deal about the ill effects produced by the use of lead pipe for conduits, pumps, &c. It is said to be operated upon by some water, in such manner as to produce more or less of a deadly poison, which enters into the water consumed, and which, in time, must produce, upon the systems of those who use it, disastrous consequences.

Now, if decomposed lead is injurious, I would ask, How much less injurious is decomposed copper or brass? For my own part, I should hardly know "which of the two to choose," copperas, verdigris, or lead. I am induced to make these remarks from observing that the connections (and their number will be immense) between the service pipes and the main pipes of our water works are of a composition of *brass, copper,* &c., soldered into the iron with *lead.* Now here we have "all the good things together," copper, lead, and brass. Let any one step into State Street, and see for himself — let him take one of the connections, or one of the stop-cocks up, and see the quantity of verdigris already formed upon it, before being submitted to the decomposing process, which will of necessity take place beneath the dampness of our streets; and let him say, if we are to be supplied through such materials, whether "Cochituate water" is to be a healthy beverage. Why was it necessary to use brass or composition? Why not use iron? Iron connection, stop-cocks, &c., could have been obtained, and if they were acted upon by the water, we should have had our doses of metal all of one kind, to say the least of it, — and that, I believe, admitted to be of a strengthening character.

Perhaps some one more learned in these matters can enlighten me, and prove beyond controversy that these metallic mixtures will operate as an invigorating draught, to the corporations of our good citizens; but till such light is emitted, there will be many misgivings in the mind of SYPHAX.

— *Selected.*

Cement for Floors. — It is often desirable to have a cement floor, rat-proof. The following recipe was procured, by J. S. Skinner, from Colonel Totten, of the U. S. Engineer Department.

The mortar is to be made of one part of sand to one half part of hydraulic cement, measured in rather stiff paste. Then one part mortar, thoroughly mixed, is to be used with two and a half parts broken stone or bricks, the largest pieces not exceeding four ounces in weight, or of gravel of similar sizes, or of oyster shells, or either or all of these mixed together. These coarse materials must be free from sand or dirt. The concrete thus made must be put down in a layer of not more than six inches, which will be about the proper thickness for the floor; rammed very hard, and until the coarse particles are driven out of sight, care being taken to bring the top of the mass into the true place of the floor by the first process; no subsequent addition of plaster being admissible. By the help of a straight edge drawn over guide pieces, the top surface may be made smooth and even by the first operation.

The concrete should contain no more water than is necessary to give the requisite plasticity to the mass. The floor should be covered, as soon as finished, with straw or hay, which should be kept wet for several days, the longer the better.

Repentance without amendment is like pumping without stopping the leak.

SINGULAR TREE IN NEW ZEALAND.

One of the most extraordinary trees of the forest is the rata, which, originating in a parasite, grows to such a size as to rank amongst the giants of the forest. It first makes its appearance in the form of a tender vine, clasping the trunk of some huge tree with its long tendrils, and growing both upwards and downwards, and increasing in bulk at the same time. After a while the parasite, having killed the parent trunk, establishes itself upon its roots, sends forth numerous branches aloft, which again send forth aerial roots clasping the neighboring trees; and ultimately, the rata occupies a larger space than any tree of the forest. It is under this tree that the curiosity so well known as the vegetating caterpillar is found; and instances have occurred of natives lying down to sleep under the rata having been found dead. The tree is now always carefully avoided by them. — *Simmonds's Colonial Magazine.*

CURE FOR HEAVES IN HORSES.

A farmer tells us that he has recently cured two of his horses, which had the heaves badly, by the use of the following remedy: To three quarts of sweet milk add a teaspoonful of sulphuric acid, (oil of vitriol,) and mix with the horses' feed. Give at first three times a week, and afterwards once or twice, as there may seem occasion for a few weeks longer. Our informant says there was little appearance of the heaves after the first week. — *Christian Alliance.*

BONE DUST.

An experiment, tried by Mr. Mortimer, of Silverton, furnishes a remarkable proof of the efficacy of this manure. At a recent meeting of the Netherexe Farmers' Club, Mr. W. Strong, of Powhay Mills, offered to give some bone dust to any agriculturist, to be tried against guano. Mr. Mortimer took the offer, and manured a piece of land, one part with bone, another with Peruvian guano, and a third portion with farm-yard dung, leaving a small strip without any dressing. The whole was planted with turnips, and we are assured by an agriculturist who has seen them, that while on the boned ground there are turnips larger than his hat, the part left unmanured has not one so large as his finger. The guano crop is finer than the dung turnips, but by no means equal for the size, though the superior, in thickness and rapidity of growth, to that grown where bone manure was used. — *Monk Lane (Eng.) Express.*

Selecting food (hay) for Animals

SOMETHING FOR ALL.

So various are the appetites of animals, that there is scarcely any plant which is not chosen by some and left untouched by others. The *horse* gives up the *water hemlock* to the *goat;* the *cow* gives up the *long-leaved water hemlock* to the *sheep;* the *goat* gives up the *monkshood* to the *horse,* etc.; for that which certain animals *grow fat upon,* others abhor as *poison.* Hence no plant is absolutely poisonous, but only respectively. Thus the *spurge,* that is *noxious to man,* is wholesome nourishment to the *caterpillar.* That animals may not destroy themselves for want of knowing this law, each of them is guarded by such a delicacy of taste and smell, that they can easily distinguish what is pernicious from what is wholesome; and when it happens that different animals live on the same plants, still one kind always leaves something for the other, as the mouths of all are not equally adapted to lay hold of the grass — by which means there is sufficient food for all. — *Stillingfleet.*

BLIND BRIDLES FOR HORSES.

Among the most absurd practices in the management of horses is the use of blind bridles. They are not only very inconvenient and uncomfortable to the horse, but they aggravate the very evil which they are intended to obviate — that of preventing the horse from being affrighted by the carriage which he might see without blinders, or from any object approaching from behind him.

In training a young horse in a chaise, we took off the blind bridle, to give him some provender, and he started with affright at the sight of the carriage; and had he not been pent up in a corner, he would have cleared. We saw from this instance the folly of the practice, and afterwards used him without blinders, first leading him up to the chaise and around it that it might become familiar, before harnessing for a few times, and we had no more trouble with him.

When any thing is approaching a horse, in the rear, it is far better for him to see it as it approaches, which he will if not blinded, than for it to come suddenly upon him, before he can see it. We had an instance of this in the same horse, while the blind bridle was used. In travelling with a gig, and walking up a hill, a friend in company came up to the horse's head, with his umbrella spread, which so frightened him that he ran away.

We name these cases, hoping that they will have some influence upon those who reason upon the subject, and induce them to abandon a practice that is attended with trouble, and sometimes with danger. We copy the following judicious remarks from J. Maddock, Farrier: —

Blind Bridles. — "Yes, use your thinking powers, friends. They were given you to use, and not abuse. Blind bridles! Truly named, surely. Art never invented a more fatal thing to the eyes of horses than when she devised this plan of depriving the horse of what nature intended he should enjoy. But, says one, how are blinders injurious to the horse? Because they gather dirt and heat around the eyes. Dirt irritates the eye, and heat produces inflammation. These bridles so entrammel the eyes of the horse that he is compelled to be constantly straining them, to see his way. The over-exertion of the nerve brings on disease. Eyes were not made in vain. Had they been needless, the Creator would not have located them in the head. They were placed on the corner of the head that he might have the advantage of looking in different directions. Men, in the abundance of their wisdom, concluded the horse had too much sight, and they wished to curtail it; hence the origin of blind bridles. Think of this seriously, and you will abandon the use of so destructive an appendage. Remember, that blind bridles and diseased eyes are inseparably connected. Custom hoodwinks the senses of men as much as blind bridles do the vision of horses."

IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

Mr. Colman, in his European Agriculture, under the head of Important Practical Conclusions, makes the following remarks on the improvement of stock: —

"The fourth great matter to which I would call the farmer's attention is the improvement of his live stock. It is difficult to speak too highly of the skill and success of the English in the improvement of their breeds of sheep, swine, cattle, and, I will add, horses. I do not say that their breeds are all such as are best adapted for the United States. I need not repeat the opinions which I have already given in this matter. Different breeds of animals are suited to particular localities; and the extent of the United States presents every variety of aspect, soil, and climate; and is marked by different kinds of husbandry, such as the raising of stock for beef or labor; the growing of wool, fine or coarse, short or long; and the produce of the dairy. These points are all to be considered in the selection of a stock for breeding.

An improved Durham short-horn would thrive and develop all his richness and beauty in the fertile meadows of Kentucky and Ohio, and the rich prairies of the west, who would become poor and dwarfish in some of the rocky and almost barren pastures of the north. But that to which I wish particularly to call the attention of the farmers of the United States is, the improvement of their stock by patient care, skill, and selection. They may import animals of improved breeds to advantage; they may cross the best of their own stocks with the best animals which they can find; and, above all, let them determine always to select the best animals for breeding, and breed only from the best; never sacrifice a superior calf or lamb to the butcher, nor be satisfied with the services of inferior animals for the increase of their stock, under which they are sure to deteriorate."

FATTENING ANIMALS.

A memoir was read to the Academy of Sciences, at Paris, by MM. Dumas, Boussingault, and Payan, "Of Researches on the Fattening of Animals, and on the Formation of Milk." These philosophers announce their belief that fatty matters are formed in plants alone; that they thence pass, ready formed, into the bodies of herbivori, entering the chyle duct by the lacteals, and so passing into the blood; that the first degree of oxydation forms stearine or oleac acid; a further degree produces the margaric acid, which characterizes fat; a still further degree the volatile fatty acids — in opposition to Liebig, who traces the origin of fat to the sugar or starch of the food. In confirmation of their views, they show that hay contains more per cent. of oleaginous matter than is produced in the butter from a cow fed on this hay; and that cows fed on potatoes, or other roots poor in fat, produce much less butter. They advance an influence, which bears much on rural economy, that a cow eliminates twice as much fat from a given quantity of food as does an ox; and hence the commerce of milk and butter deserves a high degree of attention. Some relative experiments on fattening pigs bear out the same general principles. — *Pol. Review.*

HINTS TO LOVERS OF FLOWERS.

A most beautiful and easily attained show of evergreens in winter may be had by a very simple plan, which has been found to answer remarkably well on a small scale. If geranium branches are taken from healthy and luxuriant trees, just before the winter sets in, cut as for slips, and immersed in soap and water, they will, after drooping for a few days, shed their leaves, and put forth fresh ones, and continue in the finest vigor all winter. By placing a number of bottles thus filled in flower baskets, with moss to conceal the bottles, a show of evergreen is easily insured for a whole season. They require no fresh water. — *Court Journal.*

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture, January number, is well filled with valuable matter.

Catalogue of Mount Airy Agricultural Institute. — This School, designed for instruction in scientific and practical agriculture, mathematics, and the natural sciences, is very pleasantly situated at Germantown, near Philadelphia. The principal, Mr. John Wilkinson, is an experienced teacher, having had charge of a similar institution in the state of New York.

Report of the Ohio Fruit Convention. — We are indebted to our friends, Bateham, of Columbus, Elliot, of Cleveland, and Ernst, of Cincinnati, for copies of this valuable document, which we shall examine soon.

CHEMISTRY OF ANIMAL HEAT.

The perpetual combination of the oxygen of the atmosphere with the carbon of the food, and with the effete substance of the body, is a real combustion, and is supposed to be the cause of animal heat, because heat is constantly given out by the combination of carbon, and oxygen; and without a constant supply of food, the oxygen would soon consume the whole animal, except the bones. — *Mrs. Somerville.*

MILKMAIDS TURNED PIANISTS.

A correspondent of Bateham's excellent Ohio Cultivator regrets that the rosy-cheeked variety of the genus milkmaid is fast disappearing from our native land. What a pity! I never see a farmer's wife milking, and hear the *noise* of a piano in the house, but I feel an involuntary sensation of pity. It puts me in mind of a young friend of mine, who married a farmer's daughter with a piano. As all the country girls in the vicinity said it was the piano that married the man, I felt a desire to disabuse them. At my first inquiry in the premises, my friend frankly confessed that so far from being cajoled by the piano, that luckless instrument had come well nigh driving him from the house. "But," said he, "she had the tact to discover my aversion, and I believe she has never played 'Bouncing Bet,' or 'Bounding Billows,' since that day. I wanted to see her milk," said he, "and with a sly, coquettish smile, she said she would gratify my curiosity. 'Twould have done you good to see the nonchalance with which she stepped about among those cows, not with the dainty tread of one alike afraid of the cows and the ground they walked on; but with that graceful practised step which avoids dirt as if by intuition. And then the way she despatched her task! With what a slight of hand she made each cow yield her lacteal treasure! But the best of it all was the unconsciousness of the actress of the fact that she was more than Fanny Kemble Butler in the part she was now acting."

All connoisseurs, not directly or indirectly in the *trade*, will agree that a masterly performer on the piano-forte is a person rarely seen; while the number who profane sweet music, and caricature its variations, is legion! Then what a mistake it is for a farmer's daughter to spend her time and money in attempting so hapless a task, as that of becoming even an *endurable* pianist, when she can be so much more respectably employed, both physically and intellectually!

— *Genesee Farmer.* S. W.

For the New England Farmer.

GALLS FROM THE HARNESS OR SADDLE.

Mr. Editor: White lead, finely pulverized, is the most effective application. Rubbed on dry, or made into a paste, with milk, and applied a few times, it will also prevent white hairs growing on galled places.

In our fatiguing marches in Mexico, the above was found to be an invaluable remedy by

A VOLUNTEER.

For the New England Farmer.

THE HAPPY FARMER.

BY MRS. E. C. LOOMIS.

His home 's a cot, embowered in trees,
A garden filled with fruit and flowers,
Where singing birds and humming bees
Make gay the smiling summer hours, —
A range of meadows green and fair,
And fields which well repay his care.

With joy he greets each rising sun,
And gladly hastens to his toil;
In fancy, sees the harvest won,
As covering with the mellow soil
The tiny seed, which yet will bring
A glorious autumn offering.

The golden hours, how quick they fly!
The happy day, how soon 'tis fled!
Then homeward doth the farmer hie,
And finds a table neatly spread
With many a dainty, which the field
And garden-plot so richly yield.

The evening hour is fraught with joy,
For loved ones cluster round him there;
He tastes a bliss without alloy
Which e'en a king might wish to share;
Then seeks his couch, and finds repose
Which only he who toileth knows.

Lebanon, Ct.

THE OLIO.

When adversity attends you, exert yourself, and rise above so unpleasant a companion.

He who hopes for glory from new discoveries, must not be ignorant of old ones.

Some writer says, "I once had a constant and troublesome visitor, whom I tried to get rid of. First, I essayed smoke, which he bore like a badger; then I tried fire, which he stood like a salamander. At last I lent him five dollars, and I have not seen him since."

A lover, wishing to compliment his dulcinea, by intimating that she was a celestial being descended to earth, unhappily called her "a fallen angel"!

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18¾ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume.

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